

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 COME-00 AGRE-00 STR-07
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P R 230732Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4036
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL KRAKOW UNN
AMCONSUL POZNAN UNN

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT EAGR PL
SUBJ: CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM MEETS ON AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD
POLICY: MORE OF THE SAME

1. SUMMARY. A CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM WAS CONVENED MARCH 17
TO CONSIDER POLAND'S AGRICULTURE AND FOOD ECONOMY. DESPITE
ACKNOWLEDGING CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES, THE COMMITTEE DETERMINED
THAT THE AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN EFFECT SINCE THE CC PLENUM OF
OCTOBER, 1974, HAS BEEN CORRECT AND PRODUCTIVE. THAT POLICY
WAS RECONFIRMED; NO SIGNIFICANT INITIATIVES TO MODIFY IT WERE
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UNDERTAKEN. END SUMMARY.

2. THE ELEVENTH PLENUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE POLISH
UNITED WORKERS PARTY (PZPR) MET IN WARSAW MARCH 17. THE SESSION
WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SUPREME COMMITTEE OF THE
UNITED PEASANT PARTY (ZSL), LED BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
STANISLAW GUCWA. ACCORDING TO THE PZPR DAILY TRYBUNA LUDU, "PARTY

AND ECONOMIC ACTIVISTS, AGRICULTURAL SCIENTISTS AND PRACTITIONERS" ALSO TOOK PART. (COMMENT: THESE ADDED STARTERS MAKE IT ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THE PLENUM CONFINED ITSELF TO AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY AND AVOIDED INTERNAL PARTY AFFAIRS. IT WAS NOTED DURING THE SESSION THAT THE 1974 POLICY HAD BEEN ADOPTED JOINTLY BY THE PZPR AND ZSL; THIS, OF COURSE, PROVIDED A BASIS FOR ATTENDANCE BY ZSL LEADERS AT A PLENUM WHOSE MAIN FUNCTION WAS STATED TO BE REVIEWING THE OPERATION OF THAT POLICY. END COMMENT).

3. THE SPEECH OF PZPR FIRST SECRETARY EDWARD GIEREK WAS THE MAJOR EVENT OF THE PLENUM. GIEREK BROKE LITTLE NEW GROUND. HE SAID PROGRESS TO MEET THE GOALS, SET AT THE FIFTEENTH CC PLENUM OF OCTOBER 1974, TO MODERNIZE AGRICULTURE, OVERCOME BACKWARDNESS, AND SOLVE FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEMS HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY ON THE WHOLE, ALTHOUGH THE SUPPLY OF MEAT STILL FAILS TO COVER DEMAND. THE CENTRAL AIM OF POLAND'S AGRICULTURAL POLICY, GIEREK SAID, IS THE "ASSOCIATION BETWEEN GROWTH IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF LIFE IN RURAL AREAS." HE CITED PAST INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE INTRODUCTION OF FREE MEDICAL CARE AND A PENSION SCHEME FOR INDIVIDUAL FARMERS AS COMPONENTS OF A "STABLE AGRICULTURAL POLICY" WHICH SERVES THE INTERESTS OF FARMERS ASSURING "GOOD PERSPECTIVES" TO ALL WHO INCREASE DELIVERIES TO THE STATE.

4. GIEREK POINTED OUT FOUR "CRUCIAL MATTERS TO WHICH PARTY ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD, IN THE FIRST ORDER, DEVOTE THEIR ATTENTION:"

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A. FULL AND RATIONAL USE OF ARABLE LAND SHOULD BE MADE, ITS FERTILITY IMPROVED AND ITS NATURAL RICHES PROTECTED;

B. PRODUCTION OF FEED SHOULD BE INCREASED BY MEANS OF GREATER EXTENSIVE AND INTENSIVE CULTIVATION OF FODDER CROPS SUCH AS CORN AND POTATOES;

C. THE FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY SHOULD BE IMPROVED IN BOTH QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF OUTPUT. (GIEREK SAID PROGRESS TO DATE HAS BEEN ADEQUATE, BUT ALL POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT HAVE NOT BEEN EXHAUSTED);

D. THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION SHOULD BE MORE EFFICIENTLY UTILIZED IN RURAL AREAS.

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5. GIEREK PRAISED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF STATE FARMS IN PASSING, BUT DWELT ON THE VIRTUES OF INDIVIDUAL SPECIALIZED FARMS, WHOSE PROPRIETORS "SHOULD BE FIRST IN LINE FOR THE PURCHASE OF MACHINES AND OTHER MEANS OF PRODUCTION." IN A BOW TOWARD ALL INDIVIDUAL FARMERS, HE ADDED, "OUR STATE GUARANTEES AND WILL CONTINUE TO GUARANTEE THE PROFITABILITY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AS WELL AS THE STEP-BY-STEP GROWTH OF INCOMES IN RURAL AREAS. OUR POLICY FAVORS THE ELEVATION OF THE QUALITY OF WORK CONDITIONS AND THE LIVES OF RURAL PEOPLE." GIEREK CLAIMED THAT PUBLIC ATTITUDES IN RURAL AREAS ARE FAVORABLE AND THAT CONFIDENCE IN THE PRESENT AGRICULTURAL POLICY HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATED.

6. FEW OF THE 23 SPEAKERS WHO PRECEDED GIEREK TO THE ROSTRUM,
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A COLLECTION OF GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, ACADEMICS, PARTY WORKERS, AND MODEL FARMERS OFFERED MUCH MORE TO CHEW ON THAN THE ROUTINE MAIN COURSE SERVED UP BY THE FIRST SECRETARY.
AMONG THE OTHER SPEAKERS, AGRICULTURE MINISTER LEON KLONICA HAD THE MOST INTERESTING MESSAGE. HE CONVEYED A DECISION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO PUT TWO BILLION ADDITIONAL ZLOTYS AT THE

DISPOSAL OF STATE FARMS WHICH EXCEED THEIR PLANS. ACCORDING TH KLONICA, NO MORE THAN FIVE MILLION ZLOTYS MAY BE ALLOTTED FOR ANY ONE PURPOSE. (COMMENT: THIS ACTION AND GIEREK'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL FUND AVAILABLE TO LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS AND ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES WERE THE ONLY CONCRETE MEASURES TO EMERGE FROM THE PLENUM. END COMMENT).

7. KLONICA BALANCED GOOD NEWS WITH BAD. IN THE PERIOD 1975-77, HE SAID, 39 BILLION MORE ZLOTYS WERE INVESTED IN AGRICULTURE THAN PLANNED (PLANNED: 288 BILLION; SPENT: 327 BILLION), BUT DELIVERIES OF TRACTORS AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY ARE BEHIND SCHEDULE AND THE PLAN FOR FERTILIZER PRODUCTION, ESPECIALLY NITROGEN FERTILIZER, HAS NOT BEEN FULFILLED. IN A SUCCESSION OF YEARS UNFAVORABLE TO AGRICULTURE, HE SAID, 1976-77 WAS THE WORST, WITH A SHORTFALL OF 82 BILLION ZLOTYS IN TOTAL PRODUCTION. KLONICA CONCLUDED THAT ACHIEVMENT OF THIS YEAR'S AMBITIOUS PLAN FOR 6 PERCENT GROWTH IN TOTAL AGRI-CULTURAL PRODUCTION WOULD BE DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE 3 TO 3.5 PERCENT ANNUAL GROWTH FORESEEN IN THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

8. THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ADOPTED A THREE-PART RESOLUTION AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PLENUM. THE RESOLUTION
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ENDORSED GIEREK'S SPEECH AS THE GUIDELINE FOR FUTURE AGRICULTURAL POLICY. IT INSTRUCTED THE POLISH GOVERNMENT TO ASSURE MORE EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND A GREATER OUTPUT OF FOOD, PARTY ACTIVISTS TO CREATE AN APPROPRIATE ATMOSPHERE TO FULFILL AGRICULTURAL TASKS, AND THE PZPR SEJM DEPUTIES CLUB TO SUBMIT JOINTLY WITH THE ZSL DEPUTIES CLUB A MOTION TO PUT A REVIEW OF IMPLE-
MENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL AND NUTRITIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT SESSION OF THE PARLIA-
MENT. FINALLY, THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE EXHORTED PZPR MEMBERS, ZSL MEMBERS, FARMERS, FOOD INDUSTRY WORKERS, LOCAL OFFICIALS, SCIENTISTS AND ALL WORKING PEOPLE TO POOL THEIR EFFORTS TO SOLVE POLAND'S FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEMS.

9. COMMENT: THE PLENUM RECEIVED COMPARATIVELY LITTLE BUILDUP IN THE PUBLIC MEDIA. ANY EXTENSIVE ADVANCE PUBLICITY COULD HAVE DECEPTIVELY SIGNALLED A CHANGE IN DIRECTION OF REGIME AGRICULTURAL POLICY. IN THE EVENT THE CENTRAL COMITTEE STOOD PAT AND DECIDED THAT THE MEASURES, ADOPTED OVER THREE YEARS AGO, TO INCREASE INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURE SIGNIFICANTLY WHILE NUDGING

ALONG STRUCTURAL CHANGES DEEMED FAVORABLE TO "SOCIALIST"
AGRICULTURE, ARE CORRECT. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER
THE PREPONDERANCE OF AGRICULTURE WORKERS, ESPECIALLY
INDIVIDUAL FARMERS, WILL SHARE THIS APPRAISAL AND
COOPERATE FULLY IN THE CONTINUATION OF A PROGRAM LARGELY
OFFERING MORE OF THE SAME. END COMMENT.
SCHAUFLE

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